



Acquisition Sight Picture

The Newsletter for Acquisition Officer Career Management

Volume II, Issue 2, 30 April 2004



From the Assignment Officer

Desk

The hot questions of the moment for most of you undoubtedly involve the new Unit of Action construct and how the need to fill these units affects the AAC. This issue of the *Sight Picture* will address the Unit of Action topic in detail as well as regular updates and items of interest.

Board Updates

- ✓ **FY04 LTC ACC Board Results.** We predict the results of the board to be released approximately JUL 04.
- ✓ **FY04 LTC PM/CMD Board Results.** As of this printing, the results have not been released, but are due for release at any time. Expect PM/CMD slating results to follow 30 days after.
- ✓ **FY04 MAJ ACC Board results.** We predict the results of the board to be released around the SEP 04 timeframe.
- ✓ **FY04 AAC Accession Board.** This year's AAC Accession Board is scheduled to convene the first week in JUN 04. The application deadline was 30 APR, with the exception of YG 94 branch transfers.
- ✓ **FY04 Army Senior Service College Board.** This year's board recently convened

from 6-30 APR. Look for results in the mid JUN timeframe.

Modularity and the Unit of Action Concept



As most of you have read or heard, the Army is changing the way it organizes, trains, and equips its soldiers to meet the current and future demands of the GWOT and the global security environment. The vision of the CSA is to have a more flexible, modular force that is capable of addressing these demands. This is resulting in a change in structure across the Army. As opposed to rotating or deploying as full divisions, units are now operating under brigade-sized elements called Units of Action (UAs). Several divisions at a time will move into a rotational or deployment window and one or more UAs from each division will rotate or deploy collectively.

The move to the UA structure is having significant effects on current and future AAC assignments and force structure. The biggest impacts are being felt in the 51C and 51A populations. Each division is required to have 14-15 51Cs: Two 51Cs in each UA, and additional 51Cs at the DISCOM and Division levels. Since we do not have the 51C population to support filling all

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the upcoming requirements, 51As with degrees and timelines suitable for 51C certification and warrants are being placed in the pool of consideration. At this time, 3ID, 10th MTN, 101st, and 4ID all require fills between JUL and DEC 04. AAC officers can expect to see 51C requirements for five additional divisions in the near future. See the *Ask the AO* section for answers to more specific questions about UA issues.

Any AAC officer with 51C experience or a degree suitable for 51C certification who would like to volunteer for one of these UA assignments is encouraged to contact their assignment officer at the earliest opportunity.

2005 Summer Assignment Cycle



The summer 2005 assignment cycle is scheduled to begin in the coming months. Look on the web for valid requisitions in the late summer timeframe.

Upcoming HRC Visits and AAC Events



- **PEO STRI, Orlando** → Moved to JUN-date TBD
MAJ Thompson-Blackwell, (MAJ Donovan Tentative)
- **Ft Benning, GA** → 10-14 MAY
MAJ Bochonok

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- **London, England** → 20-21 MAY
COL Carson
- **GOSC** → 10-14 MAY
- **ATEC** → 15 JUN (*Tentative*)
MAJ Donovan



Ask the AO

This section provides the opportunity to see answers to FAQs from the population at large.

Unit of Action Issues

Q: If the divisions need 51Cs, how is providing a 51A who doesn't have any contracting experience going to help the situation?

A: Selected UA personnel are being placed in the divisions in pairs as an inexperienced/experienced mix. The experienced officer will provide OJT and mentoring to the inexperienced officer as they learn about the contingency contracting arena. Though 51C training, such as the AABC, may not be unavailable en-route, the inexperienced person is still required to pursue the necessary training and on-line schools needed to become certified and warrantable as a 51C.

Q: A lot of officers are getting diverted from assignments and training opportunities to fill UA requirements. Why is this necessary?

A: We currently have four divisions worth of UAs to fill this summer and winter. Since we do not have the necessary 51C population to draw from, we are required to divert officers from other assignments immediately. Many areas of the AAC are being targeted for assignment, and it has been a painful process for everyone involved.

Q: If I have been placed on assignment for a UA, what can I expect as a follow-on?

A: AMB can make no guarantees for follow-on assignments, for we do not know what positions will be available and validated for fill this far in advance. However, for those officers placed into UAs on short notice outside the normal assignment cycle, a comment will be placed in the RFO stating that the officer will be given priority consideration for an appropriate follow-on assignment. Comments will also be placed in the officer's Career Manager Notes.

Q: Are ACS and TWI slots going away as a result of UA requirements?

A: No. Though some officers are being pulled from TWI or ACS slots to meet immediate fill needs, this does not imply that many or all slots are being deleted. In order to meet future needs, the AAC may not be able to send as many officers to these programs, but there is no indication at this time that

these programs will not be available in the future for AAC officers.

Q: Will agencies losing officers to UA assignments receive immediate backfills?

A: Most likely not. At this time, there is no population available to provide backfills for agencies losing officers to UA assignments. Though some agencies may be able to receive backfills locally from new accessees, most vacated slots will not be filled until the winter 2004 and summer 2005 cycles.

Q: Are all AAC officers going to be converted to 51Cs?

A: Not necessarily. If you are a 51A/R, you will still strive towards diversity within your primary AOC, but 51C contingency contracting is now a core competency for all AAC officers. New accessees and officers with timelines able to support a 51C assignment may find themselves placed into 51C contingency contracting positions in the future. Additionally, 51Rs with the appropriate training and education may also find themselves eligible for placement into inexperienced positions.

Other Topics of Interest

Q: For Block VII.d. "future assignments" on the OER, what are good positions to recommend?

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A: It depends on what your goals are within your AOC. This block does not play a critical role in promotion boards, but positions recommended should be commensurate with the next higher level of progression within that AOC (e.g., APM, DASC, Buying Command, etc.). MAJ and LTC reports should also include a position related to PM or Command.

Q: I'm a new accessee. What career path can I expect to follow once assigned to an AAC position?

A: There are many paths a new accessee can follow. The following link from the HRC AAC homepage has FAQs associated with the accession process and what a new accessee can expect with regard to the AAC :

https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/OPfam51/FY04_accession.htm.

Q: (Since we continue to receive inquiries concerning ILE, this is a reprint of a previous question) Is the full length CGSC no longer an option for AAC officers? How does attending NPS affect me?

A: The MEL-4 situation is changing for all officers in the Army. Though much remains unresolved in determining who will attend what course, here is the most current information:

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- YG93 and prior who are CSC Selectees are still eligible to attend the full length CGSC or ILE.
- YG94 and later will not be under the 2-look resident system, and will attend ILE or whatever intermediate education the Army should develop.
- **Those officers who are YG93 and earlier who are not CSC Selectees are NOT eligible for ILE, and must complete CGSC through the non-resident correspondence option.**
- Those officers who are in career fields other than Operations will most likely NOT attend a sister service school.
- CSC Selectees who attended NPS to obtain an AAC degree will attend ILE and will not be authorized to attend CGSC at Ft Leavenworth due to duplication of curriculum.



Suggestion Box

This newsletter is a work in progress. If there is a topic you would like to hear about or an idea you would like to suggest for the newsletter, please feel free to phone or send an email message to MAJ Donovan at:

sharlene.donovan@hoffman.army.mil

Comments concerning the newsletter are highly encouraged. Both positive and constructive feedback is always welcome.

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HRC Online
<https://www.hrc.army.mil>

Acquisition Support Center (ASC)
<http://asc.rdaisa.army.mil/>

Acquisition Position List
https://rda.rdaisa.army.mil/cappmis/apl_cappmis/

OPMF On-Line
<https://ompf-op.hoffman.army.mil/epmdssnEntryHandler.jsp>